Daily Report

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Near East & South Asia

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Iran

The Foreign Ministry has announced that, in line with the government's "fundamental policies" to expand and strengthen "ties and good-neighborly relations" with Persian Gulf littoral states, the government and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to hold talks on 27 September "to resolve their dispute" over the three Gulf islands, according to Tehran radio.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli negotiator Itamar Rabinovich and his Syrian counterpart Muwaffaq al'Allaf have agreed that no progress is likely in the currrent round of peace talks in Washington, Jerusalem radio reported. Rabinovich, however, expressed interest in the phrase "total peace," which al-'Allaf is reported to have used for the first time in the talks. "My curiosity has certainly been roused," Rabinovich said, "and I look forward to further amplification of what might be a positive direction."

Jordan

Two National Assembly deputies arrested earlier this month for their involvement in an underground extremist organization have been charged with attempting to establish an Islamic state in Jordan with the help of Iran, according to AFP. Ya'qub Qirrish and Layth Shubaylat reportedly founded the Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization two years ago after a meeting in Tehran, where they met with Iranian leaders and other Muslim groups. According to the charges, "the aim of this group is to spread the principles and objectives of the Iranian revolution with the overthrow of Jordan's regime and the creation of an Islamic caliphate state." The deputies have also been accused of passing information to the Iraqi opposition to disrupt relations between Jordan and Iraq.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'No Progress' in Syrian-Israeli Talks 23 Sep

TA2309191192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Both Israeli and Syrian negotiators, speaking after today's talks, said no progress can be made in the current round of discussions. It now seems that the next round of talks will take place next month in Washington. Connie Lonn reports from the American capital.

[Begin recording] [Lonn] Syrian negotiator, Muwaffaq al- 'Allaf continues to say no progress has been made. He says he is not satisfied, but is not annoyed or irritated. He expressed optimism for the next round of talks, expected to begin October 21st in Washington.

[Al-'Allaf] Unfortunately, we did not think anything new. So we hope that the next round will be a more serious round, more to the point, a round of real and businesslike discussion about how to establish peace, especially as I said in the light of the statement by Israeli leaders that they are serious about trying to make peace with Syria and with other Arab parties to this peace process, within not a very long time.

[Lonn] The Syrian negotiator also claimed the Israeli delegation is not carrying out the mandate of Prime Minister Rabin regarding withdrawal from the Golan Heights. He said there is no need to meet with Foreign Minister Peres on what he called extraneous subjects, while the talks are under way in Washington.

Israeli negotiator Rabinovich also said he did not believe progress can be made in the one remaining day of talks. He was asked whether his curiosity is aroused by the Syrian use of the phrases genuine and total peace.

[Rabinovich] Yes. My curiosity has certainly been aroused by the word total, particularly when applied to the word peace, but you know, this is not a business of some Biblical exegeses. We don't need to always hang on to a couple of words. Both parties have ways and means of amplifying, and I look forward to further amplification of what might be a positive direction.

[Lonn] Mr. Rabinovich would not comment when asked whether he thinks Syria would settle for anything less than a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. In their public statements, Syria demanded nothing less than a total Israeli pullout.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 23 September adds: "Prof. Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria, said this evening in Washington that the Israeli public supports the new government policy on the Golan, but that this support depends on Syria's responsiveness. He believes that this support could die out if the Syrian reaction is insufficient." The report adds that "the representatives of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations accepted Israel's offer to renew the talks on 21 October, but rejected another Israeli offer to establish channels of communication between the delegations for the period between the rounds of meetings."]

Al-'Allaf Uses Phrase 'Total Peace'

TA2309182292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1735 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The meeting between the Israeli and Syrian delegations in Washington ended a few minutes ago. Our special correspondent there Eldad Beck reports:

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' came out with a declaration today, the first of its kind by the Syrians, about a total peace on Syria's part in return for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. Upon leaving the meeting with the Israelis I asked the head of the Syrian delegation what the Syrians mean when they talk about total peace. His answer: anything that will make possible true peace between the two countries. He refused to say whether full normalization is referred to, but hinted that this was indeed the case.

The head of the Israeli delegation views the Syrian foreign minister's remarks as an opening for progress. Let us listen to his remarks:

[Begin Itamar Rabinovich recording] If the intention is to formulate anew the territories for peace equation, this will not be news. If the intention is to formulate the conception of peace in more positive terms, as may be implied by the expression total peace, this may be an opening for progress. We will have to see the full text of the Syrian foreign minister's remarks. In the meantime, I too saw only a synopsis. One should remember that the Syrian foreign minister is going to speak at the UN General Assembly, and we shall listen with great interest to what he says in this more significant forum. [end recording]

Itamar Rabinovich added that this expression of total peace surely triggers his curiosity. Let me add that upon leaving the meeting with the Israelis, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf also said that Prime Minister Rabin's attitude, of being interested in reaching an arrangement with Syria within six months, is a very positive attitude, but Israel should act on its statements.

Israelis Not Satisfied

TA2409095892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report from Washington by Eldad Beck]

[Text] The miraculous formula of complete peace in return for a complete withdrawal pronounced by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' is not satisfactory to the Israeli side, which will probably hear a few Syrian clarifications on the issue today. [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 24 September in a page-2 report by Washington correspondent Rami Tal adds: "Reacting to the Syrian foreign minister's statement, a

senior Israeli source in Washington said that 'Israel would have been happier had the Syrians declared their readiness for peace with Israel without attaching a price tag. Actually, this is a stronger version of the land-for-peace formula, which, as is known, is unacceptable to Israel as a basis for negotiation. Nevertheless, we are happy to hear a senior Syrian leader use the expression total peace, which is even stronger than full peace.' The source pointed out that al-Shar' was talking to the press and that 'we will follow his speech to the UN General Assembly very closely.'"]

While Syrian spokeswoman Bushra Kanafani refrained from interpreting al-Shar's statement, saying it was self-explanatory, chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf was willing to supply a fuller explanation of what Syria meant when it spoke of complete peace:

[Begin al-'Allaf recording, in English] Well, all what contribute to make the peace genuine and complete, not partial peace, not a peace which is only on paper. [end recording]

Complete peace, says al-'Allaf, is everything that will turn peace into something genuine and complete. Not partial peace, stresses al-'Allaf, not peace that is merely on paper, but peace that is a reality between the sides as well as between all the other countries and nations of the region.

Thus, the Syrians have begun to speak a little more explicitly about the nature of peace, and they are now waiting for the Israelis to speak more freely of withdrawal when the talks resume—apparently in October. The Syrians spare no words when discussing this issue. Al-'Allaf and Kanafani hope that next month the Israelis will keep their promise to present a new stand on the withdrawal issue, one that can promote the process. Kanafani adds, however, that the peace process is very complex and that patience is required. Is Rabin's estimate that an agreement with Syria can be attained within six months realistic, Kanafani is asked by IDF Radio at the news conference. She replies: Rabin may have said that, but a short time later, Shim'on Peres said that Israel would not agree to a full withdrawal; it is up to you to decide whether it is realistic.

Kanafani notes that although no accord has been achieved on the central issues, she is glad that the sides do agree on a number of matters. Is there a chance that the two sides will formulate a joint document by the end of the talks today? Kanafani retorts with an Arabic proverb: If it rains, apparently there have been clouds. And she adds: Since I see no clouds, I do not expect rain.

Rubinstein Reviews Talks With Palestinians

TA2309214992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2025 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to talks with the Palestinians, by Ya'ir Stern in Washington on 23 September; from the "Moqed" program—recorded]

[Text] [Stern] Mr. Rubinstein, at the beginning of the week you began to talk with the Palestinians in informal, small groups of three people on each side. What are you discussing?

[Rubinstein] This is one of the attempts we initiated to reach a better dialogue at the heart of the subjects on the agenda. One of the difficulties in the negotiations was and still is introducing the Palestinians into the heart of the negotiations; namely, encouraging them to discuss substantive matters.

[Stern] Three people sit opposite three other people and hold an informal discussion. Why not turn this into a formal discussion—into part of the negotiations?

[Rubinstein] We are trying to tell or explain to them, perhaps informally, in small groups as well as in personal talks that we hold occasionally, that this is more human, free, and relaxed to an extent. We ask them to try not to see things only through the prism of a Palestinian state, as we are not currently dealing with permanent status. Our policy on this is known. In contrast, we tell them: Look how close this brings you to a serious change from the current situation. This we can do through examples and presentation of concrete subjects. I am not saying that this beginning heralds practical developments. The matters being discussed are still not what we really want. One should remember that these are difficult negotiations, with the added dimension of historical problems, and progress is very slow. The atmosphere is good, though.

[Stern] Let me ask you: They were in Tunis. They are consulting in Tunis all the time, and repeatedly return with demands that Resolution 242, Jerusalem, settlements, and all sorts of irrelevant issues be discussed. In your opinion, why do they adopt this line?

[Rubinstein] Look, I do not think it is appropriate for us to address ourselves to, or comment on, the internal problems of the other side. Still, I think that there is still a wall of suspiciousness and a fear that there are hidden motives, that our proposals conceal other things, which in fact is not the case. There are a variety of proposals on a whole range of issues, including power and infrastructure. All of these are very complex and complicated. They require serious, ongoing negotiations. The Palestinians focus on what you mentioned: Jerusalem time and again; settlements time and again; the permanent status time and again. This wastes time, but we should not despair.

[Stern] Mr. Rubinstein, you, I, and everybody else know that the Palestinians constantly consult Tunis, that you are conducting indirect negotiations with the PLO in fact. What is your attitude toward this?

[Rubinstein] Let me state clearly: We are sitting opposite the people we are negotiating with. We respect these people. They are people who live in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza—the areas under discussion. They are people

with status in their community. We actually raise proposals which can enhance the status of their activity within their community—the human rights issue, for instance. In the past they raised it numerous times, saying they were just raising it and not discussing it. They have now expressed their willingness to set up a committee on this issue. We said: Fine; let us deal with a whole range of relevant issues. Well, no action has been taken on this issue yet. Well then, we need patience still.

[Stern] Can holding another round of talks here in Washington at the end of October, a week before the U.S. elections, not be construed as somehow influencing the U.S. elections?

[Rubinstein] We would be very pretentious to think that the U.S. voter will be affected by this. In any event, we have no intention....

[Stern, interrupting] I am referring to a possible U.S. Administration attempt to present this as an achievement a few days before the elections.

[Rubinstein] I do not think it is appropriate for us to deal with the internal politics of the United States or any other country. The proposals we raise take only various circumstances and the other negotiating sides into consideration.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Legislative Power

JN2409143592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by 'Umar Zaydani; in the "With the Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks: The sixth round of talks, which has lasted more than one month, ends today. How do you view this round?

['Abd-al-Shafi] In fact, I regret to say that there is still a conflict between the Palestinian and Israeli positions, particularly with regard to basic issues pertaining to the transitional period. In our view, the difficulty lies in the position on settlements. So far, there has been no clear-cut Israeli position on halting settlements, which we consider a basic issue to be tackled so that it will not affect negotiations on the final situation. Regarding a transitional government and, in particular, authority on the ground, any government during the transitional period should enjoy power over a geographic field—in other words, authority on the ground. Mere administrative powers would be inadequate. We are faced with the current reality created by Israel over the past 25 years—including the legal situation and everything pertaining to the situation in the occupied territories—and the situation Israel created by enacting new laws and amending existing laws to serve the goals of the occupation. Of course, this will not be in line with the requirements of peace. Therefore, the transitional government should enjoy legislative power or the legal situation must be amended to bring it in line with the requirements of peace. These are the points of disagreement between the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, you have used the term transitional government twice, and not administrative council or legislative council?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I say that the structure of the transitional government, as we have stated in our plan, should be formed in line with general, free elections in the occupied territories to elect a constituent assembly, or if you like, a legislative council, which will appoint the government, the executive organ. We want this constituent assembly to enjoy legislative powers and be responsible to the people who elected it. This is the structure of the government, as we see it. The Israeli side objects to this and says that these are the features of an independent government. We say no, because the work of this government will prove it transitional nature. This will not affect negotiations on the second period.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the Palestinians have a special situation, and the Palestinians' problem is more persistent than that of the Syrians, the Jordanians, and any other Arab party. Do you not believe that coordination with the other Arab sides will harm Palestinian interests?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Absolutely not. The Palestinian-Israeli dispute is the core of the issue of peace in the region. This means that the issue of peace is interwoven, and there is no conflict between progress in the peace process and other issues. If there are honest intentions to reach peace, then there will be no problems at all.

[Zaydani] Yesterday, a Jerusalem-based Arabic newspaper reported that accusations were exchanged between you and the Syrian delegation over an agreement or secret agreement with Israel. Is this true?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is baseless. It seems that there are sides that want to create differences between us and the Syrian delegation, or any Arab delegation for that matter. Here, I would like to assure you that we are not separated. We are unified and harmonious, and we meet continuously to coordinate stands. We want to maintain the best atmosphere of confidence among us.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, this is the last question. Have you agreed on a new date for the next round of negotiations?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There has been a proposal to begin the next round on 21 October. In principle, there is agreement, but final approval should come some time tomorrow morning, God willing. Most probably that date will be approved by everyone.

[Zaydani] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, thank you very much.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Comments on Ties With PLO

TA2309212692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2025 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, by Ehud Ya'ari in Washington "this evening"; from the "Moqed" program"—recorded in English with Hebrew subtitles]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Why is it that the Palestinian delegation is insisting on inserting components of the final status arrangement to the discussions on the interim period right now?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not know why do you interpret our position as such. We are only concerned about the basics of this process, where we think that—and as stated in the invitation letter—nothing should be done in the first phase that would prejudice or predetermine the final outcome of the negotiations on the second phase to determine the final status of the occupied territories. Now, the settlement process that is going on and the fact that Israel holds territories in its hand and under its disposal and refuses to concede anything for the interim self-government—all this prejudices the outcome of the second stage of negotiations. That basically is what we are concerned with. I think it stands to reason that the settlement process predetermines the final status to the side of Israel.

[Ya'ari] Would you like to get some assurances as to the next station?

['Abd-al-Shafi] You mean the final status?

[Ya'ari] Yes.

['Abd-al-Shafi] No. We want to go according to the principles as stipulated in the letter of invitation and also on the basis that Resolution 242 is the term of reference for the whole process: the first phase and the second phase.

[Ya'ari] Some people have reached the conclusion—and they are probably wrong—that the Palestinian delegation in the present format is incapable of taking tough decisions.

['Abd-al-Shafi] First of all I do not claim that we are perfect on all this, but I think that much of the criticism that we hear is baseless really—about division, about lack of cohesiveness in the Palestinian delegation, about its inability to take serious positions, or what not, as you stated. I, as head of the delegation, am satisfied with the situation, the internal situation, of the delegation. I think we have been able to see and decide on things in a collective manner. I think our relations with our leadership is normal.

[Ya'ari] When you say normal I read it as meaning some disagreement.

['Abd-al-Shafi] We do not want anybody to get the impression that we receive orders and we obey them blindly. We are part of the decision process.

[Ya'ari] Does it work this way: The PLO sends a fax and that is it?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We do not receive orders as such, with all the respect to our leadership. When we get, of course, we think about it. If we have any comments or anything, we are free to say this.

[Ya'ari] Is ['Arafat's adviser] Akram Haniyah the kosher inspector in your hotel, the Grand Hotel?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I do not want to go into this because I think these are very intimate questions [laughing].

[Ya'ari] They are nevertheless interesting.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Well, everything, I tell you, I say again, we in the delegation are working and conducting our task, really, in an objective, relaxed, and normal manner.

Palestinian Foresees No Progress Before 7th Round

LD2309213392 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Brother Ghasan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, announced that the talks with the Israelis on Monday covered the Palestinian and Israeli concepts on the transitional period. These meetings resulted in approving the new Palestinian step of discussing the points of disagreement one by one in order to achieve the implementation of Resolution 242.

According to Palestinian spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, it was decided to resume the negotiations from another aspect in an attempt to reach common ground with the Israelis on all these points.

A Palestinian official said that the United States has put pressure on both sides to avoid reaching deadlock again.

Al-Khatib said that the negotiations are slow and that he does not anticipate a breakthrough before the end of the round of talks due to end tomorrow. He said that such a breakthrough might happen during the seventh round of negotiations, before the American elections in November. He thought that no progress will be possible unless the new Israeli government abandons the policy of the former right-wing government and adopt the principles on which it came to power.

Algeria

State Council To Take Action Against Terrorism

LD2009215392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1907 GMT 20 Sep 92

[Address by Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi before government members, the National Consultative Council, and heads of national associations and organizations in Algiers on 20 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Citizens, I am addressing you for the second time since I assumed the responsibility of leading the Higher State Council. It is imperative, given the country's circumstances, that the citizens know the stance and orientations of the leadership regarding the current events and general situation in the country, and that the leadership know the preoccupations and concerns of citizens. Under such circumstances, and in facing a joint responsibility, the leadership and the citizenship are facing a grave situation that affects the stability of the country, the security and safety of the homeland, and the entity of the state.

It is imperative that we all are determined and firm in facing this situation. The Higher State Council, since it took up its duty under the leadership of the Late Mohamed Boudiaf, undertook a specific responsibility to get the country out of its critical situation, which is characterized by the destruction of the national economy and the weakening of the pillars and institutions of the state and which has affected the citizen's morale. [passage omitted]

Evil forces have been lying in wait for this safe country. They have formed a distorted democratic front and exploited the difficult economic situation and the hesitant attitude of the state in order to stop the Council from carrying out its task in an atmosphere of civil peace and secure stability. They dragged the country into a chain of terrorism and violence, and into taking the lives of innocent people and sabotaging the economic, social, and cultural achievements that are among the gains of the people. They launched an assault on public funds by force. Neither the security men, the state, nor the children and women were spared. Neither the civil airport, the university institutions, nor the libraries were spared.

They harmed national symbols. They went as far as violating and digging up the sacred graves of the martyrs of the liberation revolution. The height of these crimes was in the treacherous assassination or rather the treacherous and cowardly assassination of the brother president and martyr Mohamed Boudiaf—this great man who devoted his life to the homeland and the freedom of the people. He was always ready to give his life with honor for the sake of the happiness of his people and the security and safety of his homeland.

This criminal assassination made the Council more determined to persevere in the path it set for itself since its creation, and it gave the Higher State Council more important responsibilities. The Council is determined to shoulder them fully whatever the difficulties. This responsibility makes it necessary for the Council to face up to terrorism with every determination, and the Council will mobilize all material, human, and legal potentials to eradicate this vicious disease once and for all from our country.

We are aware of the worries felt by the citizen toward these criminal acts when he sees every day innocent people being killed, property endangered, and national assets savagely sabotaged as if they are not Algerian property for whose edification we have all fought. The Algerian people, known for their courage and noble traditions of forgiveness and solidarity, reject acts of betrayal and treason. They will undoubtedly know how to defend the material and moral gains for which they paid dearly at a time when they are daily unveiling the true intentions of the perpetrators of these acts.

The blood of the Algerian people, much of which was spilled by the colonists, as a sacrifice for freedom, the homeland, and dignity, cannot be spilled today in order to satisfy the appetites and ambitions of obscure forces which, in the final analysis, only serve the enemies of Algeria who are interested in destroying the Algerian state and in wiping out the achievements of the national struggle of over one and a half centuries so as to settle the score with the giant and triumphant Algerian revolution and to lead Algeria and the Algerian people into a state of disunity, submission and inability to respond.

The Algerian citizen would like to live in independent Algeria in full dignity, comfort and safety; he refuses to see an atmosphere of terrorism, fear, and lack of security reign in his country. The Higher State Council regards it as its essential duty to respond to those needs. The Higher State Council will announce over the next few days new laws which will allow the competent authorities to confront violence and terrorism with efficiency. I said, the Higher State Council will announce over the next few days new laws which will allow the competent authorities to confront violence and terrorism with efficiency and firmness and to confront the issues of smuggling, of those quarters which try to bleed the country dry of its wealth and which take lightly the livelihood of citizens, and also of acts of bribery and free play with the country's higher interests.

There will not be any forgiveness for these evil gangs which are sapping the country's strength and exposing its security and stability to danger.

It is clear that these laws which are directed against terrorism in all its forms are not intended to undermine political activities, freedom of expression, or the citizen's basic liberties in an atmosphere of peace and order.

The state institutions which are in charge of public security will remain the main deterrents of the forces of evil, and defenders, with gallantry and honor, of the safety, security, and stability of the country and the security of the citizen. [passage omitted]

The institutions of the state, with their various bodies and branches which we seek to reinforce, will remain the main wall in the face of all the attempts aimed at the structures of the state and society. Those who are in charge of these institutions must shoulder their full responsibilities, with all the severity required by the situation. They must face up to those who try to undermine the state from inside. [passage omitted]

Police Officer Killed; Bomb Explodes Prematurely

LD2309133292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] A bomb exploded this morning in the hands of an unknown person who was carrying it near the university tunnel in the heart of Algiers. This was announced by the police at the scene.

According to eyewitnesses, the bomb caused no casualties, although it caused some damage to nearby buildings. According to the same witnesses, the unknown person, who was taken to a hospital, lost one of his limbs.

The telephone exchange at Youssefi Abdelkader street in Blida was vandalized by unknown people this morning.

Sources close to security authorities in Blida Province have reported that yesterday at about 1830, four unknown men shot dead police inspector El-Akel near his house in the center of Chebli and managed to escape.

According to the same source, the victim was attacked by armed men in Boufarik about a month and a half ago.

Security sources in Bouira have announced that an armed clash took place yesterday at about 1730 on the northern approaches to Bouira between a national gendarmerie patrol and an armed gang riding in a car.

According to preliminary information from security sources in Bouira, the clash resulted in the killing of a gendarme and the wounding of two others, as well as the injury of two youths who were grazing their sheep in the area. The armed gang managed to flee after commandeering a car from a citizen.

Citizens Arrested for Helping Terrorists, Gangs

LD1809223492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 92

[Text] It was learned from the command of the National Gendarmerie that several arrests were made throughout Algeria in recent days of people charged with abetting terrorists, failing to report crimes, and forming gangs of outlaws.

One Hanika Abdallah, wanted in connection with the attack on the Gendarmerie force at Abadia, was arrested at Ain Defla. After he was referred to justice, he was placed in prison. The body of Kaouas Mourad was found at a place 20 kilometers north of Ain Defla. He was involved in the attack at Abadia.

Elements of the National Gendarmerie at Sidi Lahcene in the Wilaya Belabbes arrested seven wanted persons in connection with an assassination attempt and the formation of a gang of outlaws.

Eight other persons were arrested in Tiaret in connection with the attack on a branch of the Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development in the province. The accused included the acting director of the branch.

Higher State Council Opens Talks With FLN

LD2209162292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The first step by the Higher State Council toward opening consultations with the country's various organizations in conformity with the declaration issued on 30 August this year has been taken. A meeting was held today with one of the most prominent political parties in Algeria, the National Liberation Front [FLN]. The consultations took place within the context of providing the objective conditions aimed at establishing a sound democratic system as put forward by the chairman of the Higher State Council in his speech to the nation on 20 September. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister's Adviser on Government Program

LD2109161992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Report on news conference by Messaoud Ait Chaalal, minister adviser to the prime minister, by Fethi Said, at the Government Palace in Algiers on 21 September—recorded]

[Text] Mr. Messaoud Ait Chaalal, minister adviser to the prime minister, is at this very moment holding a press conference on the new social year. Mr. Ait Chaalal presented a brief report on the action undertaken by the government this summer, particularly in August. He said that the government examined all the problems in the social and economic fields and carried out wide-ranging consultations with all the social partners. He pointed out that the government believed in consultations and regarded them as an essential factor toward finding a solution to the outstanding issues.

Mr. Ait Chaalal also gave a few details on the measures taken by the government in order to solve some real and urgent problems, which are facing workers in particular. The government, he said, confirms that employment is its main preoccupation and it must be protected with all means because it is an essential factor for stability and progress. But this goal, he added, can only be achieved if we control and organize all the wealth—specifically the wealth that the country possesses; human and natural wealth—and resources in order to overcome the critical situation the country is going through. This, he further said, can also be achieved through national solidarity, which has been a remarkable instrument that has worked

miracles and helped the country overcome difficult times. He pointed out that national solidarity was part of the government's program.

Mr. Ait Chaa'al also touched on some specific problems, and he presented the government's decisions on these to the journalists present. These problems include the difficulties facing the construction and public works sector and the local public enterprises that are the worst hit by the crisis, as he put it.

The government implemented a series of measures in this respect, including the following: For the construction and public works sector and the workers of the local public enterprises the government has decided to pay the back wages owed to the workers through 30 September 1992. It is worth noting that workers have not received their wages for two or three months, and even six or seven months in some enterprises.

This decision, though, is insufficient, Mr. Ait Chaalal said, and this operation cannot be repeated every six months. Therefore, he added, a date must be fixed to put an end to this aid and the companies must become productive in order to pay the workers their wages. A study will be made to find out which of the enterprises are capable of self-recovery and which are not. As a result, some enterprises might disappear when strict economic rules are applied.

On national production, a decision has been made to ban all importation of products that are made domestically. He said that the government would endeavor to achieve this goal by stressing that all countries protect their own markets, if not with direct protectionist measures, then with indirect measures such as health measures preventing the entry of some products deemed unhealthy.

On the health sector, Mr. Ait Chaalal said that the government would do its utmost to improve this sector, which is facing numerous problems and instability. He added that medicines and surgical and medical instruments would be imported for the citizens. He further said that the government even intended to review prices. He pointed out that yesterday the government came to an agreement with university doctors to work towards ensuring the stability of this sector. The government will try to resolve the problems facing doctors, who are making some claims in view of the numerous duties they have to carry out: such as treating patients, teaching at the university, and being involved in research and administrative tasks.

In the industrial sector, Mr. Ait Chaalal said that the government had decided to provide hard currency for industrial enterprises and that priority would be given to all the enterprises manufacturing products necessary to meet the basic needs of the population.

On education, Mr. Ait Chaalal announced that the government decided to implement the agreement signed on 12 May 1992 with the National Federation of Education Workers. This agreement was on paying compensation to workers in this sector.

Finally, Mr. Ait Chaalal said that in line with the action undertaken by the previous government, the present government had decided to set up bodies to examine ways to consult all social partners in order to find solutions to the existing problems.

Security Centers Release 67 Detainees

LD1809083192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Sep 92

[Text] It has been learned from a reliable source in Ouargla that since 5 September 67 detainees have been released from the security centers at Said Otba, Ouargla Province, and Bordj Omar Driss, Illizi Province.

Egypt

Mubarak, UAE President Hold Final Talks

NC2409080592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0708 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Alexandria, 24 Sep (MENA)—The two Arab leaders Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan held their fourth and final round of talks this morning at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria.

During the session, they finalized discussions and reviewed regional and international issues of interest to the two countries, especially those relating to the latest developments in the Gulf region in view of the dispute between Iran and the UAE over the islands recently occupied by Iran.

Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid discussed current efforts to push the Middle East peace process forward in view of the Washington negotiations among the various parties to that conflict. They also discussed the two countries' contributions to the peace efforts, aiming to establish security and stability in this sensitive area.

The two Arab leaders also reviewed bilateral relations between both countries and the possibility of developing and expanding cooperation in various fields in view of Shaykh Zayid's directives to encourage UAE investments in Egypt on all levels. President Mubarak also issued directives to facilitate the UAE's investments in Egypt.

MENA has learned that the talks between both leaders, Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid, and the expanded talks that took place between the Egyptian and UAE delegations during the past four days were successful and fruitful. Fraternity, friendship, and mutual understanding attended the discussions by both sides in the interest of both peoples and the Arab nation.

The final round of talks took place before His Highness Shaykh Zayid's departure from Alexandria to Damascus after a four-day visit to Egypt, when he held important and lengthy talks with his brother President Husni Mubarak.

UAE President Departs

NC2409101792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 24 Sep (MENA)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and his delegation left Alexandria this morning after a four-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, Shaykh Zayid held a series of important talks with President Husni Mubarak concerning the latest developments in international and regional issues of interest to both countries. They also discussed ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations between Egypt and the UAE in various fields. [passage omitted]

Musa, Shim'on Peres Meet at UN General Assembly

NC2309214792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] New York, the United Nations, 23 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the sidelines of the meetings of the current UN General Assembly session in New York today.

MENA learned that discussions dealt with the bilateral and multilateral peace talks and bilateral relations. An Egyptian source described the talks as positive and constructive. Both ministers agreed to resume their discussions at a second meeting to be held this week. [passage omitted]

Iraq Intensifying Efforts To Improve Relations

NC2309185392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Sep 92 p 5

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Iraq is intensifying efforts to improve its relations with Egypt and end the Arab blockade imposed on it since the beginning of the Gulf crisis. Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that his country is prepared to turn over a new leaf with the fraternal Arab states and is working seriously toward this. He described Egypt's position on the attempts to partition Iraq as national, responsible, and deserving appreciation and respect. He also expressed great satisfaction with the outcome of his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the sidelines of the Arab League meeting.

Egypt has stressed repeatedly its concern for Iraq's unity and its rejection of all attempts to partition it.

AL-WAFD has learned that Qays Mahmud, head of the Iraqi Interests Section in Cairo, held talks for the first time with an Egyptian Foreign Ministry protocol official in the presence of Mahmud Khayrallah, head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Baghdad. The talks dealt with the work of the Iraqi mission in Iraq. Meanwhile, 430 Egyptians have received entry visas to Iraq since the Iraqi Interests Section began operating.

Gulf States Said 'Relying' on West Over Abu Musa

NC2409092692 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 21 Sep 92 p 1

[Sha'ban al-'Aysawi's Monday column: "What Comes After Occupation of Abu Musa Island?"]

[Text] Perhaps Iran's occupation of the United Arab Emirates' island of Abu Musa would alert those negligent Gulf rulers who are skillfully trying to find pretexts to bury the Damascus Declaration. This Declaration entrusted the Gulf states with the task of defending the Gulf with their armies, backed by Egyptian and Syrian troops.

Some of those rulers have chosen to rely on the United States, Britain, and France, with which they concluded treaties and joint defense agreements. Those Gulf states have failed to realize that the big countries are only concerned with the oil in the Gulf and are not at all concerned whether Gulf land is occupied, as long as the oil and its revenue keep pouring into their coffers.

Iran's occupation of Abu Musa was a test demonstrating that the theory of relying on the West to defend the Gulf is a failure. The Western states have not moved to object to this occupation.

Those who gambled on the West, who tried with every means to exclude Egypt and Syria and to assassinate the Damascus Declaration by ignoring it or procrastinating over its implementation, will pay the price with their people's money and their territorial integrity. History will show no mercy for those who conspire against their countries.

Bahrain

British Defense Secretary Holds Talks, Departs

JN2409094792 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Manama, 23 Sep (WAKH)—British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind and his delegation left Manama tonight after a visit to Bahrain. During the visit, the British secretary held talks with high-ranking officials on bilateral cooperation in various fields, recent regional developments, Arab and international affairs, and issues of common concern.

Kuwait

Defense Agreement Signed With United Kingdom

LD2209153392 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1441 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait City, 22 Sep (KUNA)—Kuwait's defense minister and Britain's defense secretary today signed an accord complementing the defense agreement signed by the two countries last February.

The accord was signed today during British Defense Secretary Malcom Rifkind's meeting with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim. The signing came within the framework of Malcom Rifkind's visit to Kuwait, which began yesterday, during which he has been received by the Kuwaiti amir, heir apparent, and prime minister. During the meeting, the British secretary and Kuwaiti minister also discussed military cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Information Minister on Damascus Declaration, Iraq

NC2209113292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1306 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub has asserted that the Damascus Declaration does not exclude military or security aspects. He said the recent meeting in Doha of foreign ministers of Damascus Declaration countries agreed to enhance this type of security.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I published today, he emphasized that Kuwait and the Gulf Cooperation Council are very keen to support and reiterate the fundamental bases of this declaration, because it represents the practical way for Arabs' future moves and is an example of the sovereignty of the Gulf states' people over their resources, options, and freedom, in any way they deem suitable to maintain their security.

He said that Iraqi claims that Kuwait remains the 19th governorate are untrue according to law and that this affirms Iraq's rejection of Security Council resolutions and defiance of international will, a stand that threatens the region. He added that this Iraqi stand requires the Security Council to take appropriate resolutions to force Iraq to implement firmly and completely the resolutions concerning the border demarcation and release of detainees.

He said there are Kuwaiti detainees in Iraq, affirming that Kuwait has evidence of this, but that Iraq refuses to give any information on them or to receive representatives from international organizations that are searching for them.

He noted that Iraq is procrastinating over implementing Security Council Resolution 687 on setting up a neutral international committee to demarcate the borders between the two countries. This committee, he remarked, has held several meetings and decided to mark the border according to available documents and other historical and legal documents between the two countries. He said that while it accepted the formation of this committee, Iraq has not attended its meetings. He appealed to the Security Council to make Iraq agree to implement this resolution. [passage omitted]

Border Fencing Reinforced To Deter Intruders

PM2209091592 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 17 Sep 92 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Fencing System on Kuwait-Iraqi Border Strengthened"]

[Text] Kuwait, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Kuwait yesterday strengthened the fencing system on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border within the framework of the Defense Ministry's concern to maintain border security and deter anyone from entering and being enticed to harm the homeland's security and safety. In this context—and on behalf of Engineer Shaykh Sabah al-Nasir al-Sabah, assistant undersecretary for military installations engineering at the Defense Ministry—Engineer Walid Ni'matallah, assistant director of the maintenance department, visited the test site for the fencing system, part of which was designed and implemented by the military installations [department] to protect the country's norther border.

It is worth noting that design and implementation were carried out by Kuwaiti workers with national companies' assistance.

Saudi Arabia

Official Denies Rift in GCC Military Cooperation

LD2309185592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 23 Sep—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general—has expressed his pride at the blessing of Islam, security, and stability which God Almighty has bestowed on the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. The prince was

addressing journalists following his patronizing of the graduation of the 42nd batch of cadets from the King Faysal Air Academy. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan affirmed that military cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries is still continuing, and he denied rumors and allegations of a rift in this regard. The prince made this affirmation in reply to a question about whether the formation of the Joint Gulf Force is likely to be reviewed so as to be able to stand up in the face of regional threats and ambitions. He added: "I believe that the GCC realizes these matters."

Prince Sultan said he believes that the building of the strength of each of the GCC member countries will reflect on the multinational forces that are combined together under the aegis of the Peninsula Shield which he said "has been established and will continue forward, God willing."

Asked about the issues raised by Iran recently over some UAE islands, Prince Sultan said: "For our part, we seek peace and love with our brethren in fraternal Iran. But if they did something that detracts from these wishes, then it is a matter that concerns them themselves."

Prince Sultan told the journalists that the economic balance between the Kingdom and the United States, Britain, and France respectively is progressing and will also progress with every country with which the Saudi Arabian Kingdom concludes a deal which merits the creation of an economic balance. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan urged youths to steer themselves toward vocational and technical spheres of work so that foreign manpower will not always be dominant in these two fields.

United Arab Emirates

More on Reported Meeting With Iran on Islands

NC2309162692 Paris AFP in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept 23 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Iran have agreed to meet here Sunday to discuss their dispute over Abu Musa and other Gulf islands, Arab and Iranian sources said Wednesday.

The sources, who all requested anonymity, said the meeting would be held in Abu Dhabi, the UAE capital, and attended by the directors of Gulf affairs at their respective foreign ministries.

"The meeting is designed to defuse tension between the two countries and end the problem through diplomatic means without external interference," said an Iranian diplomat, who declined to be named. But there was no immediate official confirmation of the meeting from the UAE or Iran.

Informed sources said the talks on Sunday would cover not only the dispute over Abu Musa but also disagreements over the status of the two nearby islands of Tonb-e Bozorg and Tonb-e Kuchek.

The Iranian diplomat said the talks, the first since the dispute on Abu Musa island flared in August, could pave the way for a higher-level meeting.

The UAE charged that Iran virtually annexed Abu Musa after Iranian officials there turned away a UAE boat last month. The UAE emirate of Sharjah and Iran have jointly run the island under a 1971 British-sponsored agreement.

The report of Sunday's meeting follows a UAE threat to take the dispute to international arbitration and after denunciations of the Iranian move by Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, the Arab League and other parties.

Yemen

Explosion Outside U.S. Embassy in Sanaa 23 Sep

NC2409054592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] A bomb exploded yesterday outside the American Embassy building in the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. The explosion shattered windows in surrounding buildings. The explosion reportedly did not cause any deaths and did not damage the Embassy building.

No individual or group has yet claimed responsibility.

During the past week there have been several explosions in Sanaa.

[In a related report, Paris AFP in English at 0717 GMT on 24 September reports the following: "The blast gouged a metre (three-foot) deep crater on a piece of ground near the Embassy, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. It was the first incident involving a Western embassy since a wave of political violence, including bombings, began a year ago."]

Details of Oppostion Meeting in Irbil Reported

Talks Open; Barzani Speaks

NC2409104892 Paris AFP in English 0939 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By Clare Pointon]

[Text] Salah-al-Din, Iraq, Sept 24 (AFP)—Iraqi opposition groups opened talks here Thursday to forge a common front in their struggle to oust President Saddam Husayn.

The talks in a Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) guest house in this mountain resort in northeastern Iraq brought together 17 delegates drawn from Shiite groups, Pan-Arabs, Kurds, representatives of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) formed in Vienna in June, communists, Turkmens and various independents.

The talks are taking place amid tight security provided by Kurdish peshmerga fighters, who have tightened checkpoints, installed machine-guns on rooftops, and patrol the streets in Land Cruisers equipped with guns.

Allied warplanes have protected Kurds in northern Iraq since last year, and the region now has its own Kurdish parliament and government, both dismissed as illegal by the Baghdad authorities.

The talks are being hosted by the Kurdistan Front, an eight party coalition. The 17 delegates were chosen at an opening session Wednesday.

They include Muhammad al-Haydari for the Iran-based Majlis (Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq), Syrian-based dissident Ba'athist Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, and INC co-ordinator of the executive committee Ahmad Shalabi.

For the Kurdish side, there are representatives of the three main political parties: the KDP, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Unity Party of Kurdistan.

Also represented are the Damascus-based Shiite movements Al-Da'wah and the Islamic Action Organization.

The meetings will be alternately chaired by KDP leader Mas'ud Barzani and PUK leader Jalal Talabani.

The agenda so far agreed during pre-working meeting talks has been the creation of a truly unified opposition front and the means to achieve free elections in Iraq.

Items such as the federalist structure for Iraq which the Kurds are seeking appear to have been left blurred for the moment. Though the Kurdistan Front has said clearly this is not a negotiable point, certain Shiite and Arab groups say they are not ready to agree to federalism before the whole Iraqi people has been consulted.

At Wednesday's opening of the first opposition forum to be held on Iraqi soil for many years, the opposition leaders said their goal was to rescue the people from "disaster".

"This is a historic day," Barzani said describing the gathering as a preparatory meeting to pave the way for a higher-level conference of opposition parties to be held at a later date.

"There were many attempts in the past to unify the opposition, but the efforts were not complete," he said in reference to the Vienna Conference in June which was boycotted by Shiite movements based in Iran and Syria.

Delegates from all sides said they were optimistic about reaching an agreement.

However there could be problems agreeing on an opposition body acceptable to both those who attended the Vienna conference and those who did not.

The Vienna participants set up the INC with the goal of overthrowing Saddam and said they hoped the INC would be the basis of any government-in-waiting.

The influential Shiite Supreme Assembly did not attend the Vienna talks but is represented here.

Kurdish Radio Comments

NC2309193092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Representatives of the Iraqi opposition groups are meeting in the summer resort of Salah-al-Din in Irbil Governorate, Iraqi Kurdistan, to unify plans, goals, and future programs which can be used to rescue Iraq and its people from servitude and oppression. Since the tasks facing the Iraqi opposition groups are fateful ones designed to (?save) the Iraqi people from the serious deterioration at all economic, political, and social levels following the irresponsible actions of the dictatorial regime in Baghdad, the Iraqi opposition groups must deal with these tasks rationally, consistent with current Iraqi and international developments, and must rise above narrow partisan policies and devote resources and capabilities [words indistinct] burdens carried by the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and other national minorities, and establish the desired democratic alternative.

The importance of this meeting lies in the fact that it is the first expanded meeting to be held in Iraqi Kurdistan. The success of this meeting, attended by about 30 Iraqi opposition groups, depends on several factors, such as proof that the Iraqi opposition groups' political decisions on the tasks confronting them will be independent and not influenced by outside pressure in any way. Another factor which will ensure the success of this expanded meeting is the extent of the opposition groups' ability to reach a firm, united position regarding Iraq's future in general and the future of the Kurdish issue in particular.

The time has come for the Iraqi opposition to adopt a firm position on the issue of our Kurdish people and recognize their right to self-determination within a united Iraq free of terrorism, hunger, and war. The Iraqi

opposition groups are urged at this delicate stage for our people to confirm before the world their ability to establish a democratic alternative in post-Saddam Husayn Iraq. The Iraqi people are looking to this expanded meeting with [words indistinct] eyes, and they call on the Iraqi opposition groups to meet the expectations of the people, who have been waiting anxiously for the unification of the goals, plans, and programs of the Iraqi opposition groups and for their implementation.

Federalism is regarded the best solution to ensure the political, social, and cultural rights of the people of Kurdistan. This objective can be achieved only through recognition in principle of a federal democratic government in Iraq which can ensure a dignified and free life for the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and other national minorities.

The Iraqi opposition now more than ever needs to unify ranks and goals and implement this unity to ensure a bright future for the Iraqi people. This, in itself, demands further joint action consistent with current international changes. [Words indistinct] to meticulously implement the decisions which the meeting will adopt.

Regime Said Planning Chemical Attack in South

LD2409100492 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—The Iraqi regime plans to deploy chemical weapons against the residents of the country's southern marshlands in order to get control over the area.

The spokesman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) announced that the Baghdad regime, in order to prepare the ground for chemical attacks, is speaking of the need to spray pesticide on the reed bed of the southern marshlands.

He called on international bodies to better supervise the area in order to prevent Iraq from committing new crimes.

Rebels Attack To Prevent Draining of Marshlands

NC2309163592 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1445 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] According to our news sources, the valiant forces of the popular resistance waged several operations aimed at preventing the regime from draining the marshlands in the south. Our forces attacked engineering positions in the south, thus signalling to other engineering units operating in the marshlands that they should discontinue their work.

On 19 September, units of the popular resistance went into action, attacking engineering sites and the forces protecting them in (Abu Sutur) in Maysan Governorate.

According to our sources, the attacks caused great damage to the vehicles and equipment at the engineering sites. Scores of the regime's military personnel were either killed or injured.

On 11 September, the popular resistance forces attacked the regime troops protecting the engineering sites in (Abu Sutur), inflicting on them heavy losses and forcing the regime to abandon engineering work in that area for a while. Despite its heavy losses, the regime is believed to be desperately pressing ahead with its scheme to drain the southern marshlands.

Ba'th Headquarters in Maysan Destroyed 16 Sep

NC2309165892 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 23 Sep GMT 1445 92

[Text] In response to the repressive measures taken by the security and intelligence organs of Saddam's defeated regime, including the arrest and execution of scores of citizens in al-'Amarah, a unit of the popular resistance attacked the facilities of the regime's party and the security organs in al-Musharrah, Maysan Governorate on 16 September.

In one of these attacks, the regime's ruling [Ba'th] Party Headquarters was destroyed and 10 criminals inside it killed. Eight servicemen who were guarding the regime's security and party organs in the same town also were killed. The attackers also destroyed a number of vehicles, including a car belonging to the al-Musharrah security chief. Ambulances were seen removing the casualties.

Kurdish Radio Cited on Fighting Around Kallar

LD2309131892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Iraqi Patriotic Union of Kurdistan radio announced today that Saddam's army, using heavy artillery, has severely shelled the city of Kallar and its suburbs during the past few days.

The radio did not refer to any casualties or damage caused by those attacks, but it added that the attacks began on Monday, 30 Shahrivar [21 September]. According to the same report, the forces of the Patriotic Union returned the attacks, shelling Iraqi Army positions. During those attacks, 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed and two ammunition depots destroyed.

IAEA Urged To Lift 'Ban' on Technical Aid

JN2309112292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1027 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Vienna, 23 Sep (INA)—Iraq has called on the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to lift the ban imposed on technical aid provided by the IAEA, especially with regard to medicine and agriculture.

In a speech at the IAEA's general conference, currently being held in Vienna, Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-Ghafur, minister of higher education and scientific research, said that Security Council resolutions allow Iraq to use radioactive isotopes for medical diagnosis and treatment. The IAEA,

however, has prescribed a highly complicated mechanism if Iraq wants to get these isotopes. Nevertheless, we have asked for some isotopes, he said.

He added: More than 10 months have passed and Iraq still has not received any assistance, at a time when the number of patients who are suffering from diseases and dying is increasing.

The minister of higher education and scientific research added that the IAEA has suspended technical aid to Iraq since August 1990, despite the fact that this assistance is not part of the banned activities under the Security Council resolutions.

He further noted that the IAEA should not be turned into a tool to deny the Iraqis education and plague them with illiteracy, thus contributing to scientific and technological backwardness in Iraq.

Dr. Humam 'Abd-al-Khaliq also spoke about the deliberate comprehensive destruction inflicted by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq which paralyzed all economic and service sectors. He added that Iraq has cooperated fully and positively with the UN inspection teams that have visited the country.

The minister also talked about weapons of mass destruction. He said that Article 14 of UN Resolution 687 calls for making the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. He added: Although a long time has passed since this resolution was issued and despite the continued harrassment of Iraq and the fabrications against it by some well-known quarters, no step has been taken to implement this part of the resolution.

He noted that it is time for the IAEA to take serious steps in this direction to achieve peace, justice, equality, and respect for sovereignty.

He added that the first thing the IAEA should do is to put all Israeli nuclear facilities under complete supervision within the safeguard program and to eliminate Israel's nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. This is the best solution for achieving stability and security in the region.

The minister also talked about the impact of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq for over two years, saying that it is time to lift the blockade from the steadfast Iraqi people.

Arab Sympathizers Encouraged To Release Assets

JN2309093192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0635 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has called on Arab governments which have frozen Iraqi assets in their banks to release these assets out of respect for the principle of pan-Arab affiliation and as evidence of their freedom from the chains of imperialist forces.

In an article today, the paper, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The sympathy of our Arab brothers is nothing if they do not transform this sympathy into concrete actions and steps that contribute to lifting part of the suffering of their brothers in Iraq.

The paper adds: Freezing Iraqi funds in some Arab states can never be understood or explained under whatever circumstances. It can only indicate fear from Washington, its allies, and the oil-rich Arabs.

AL-THAWRAH says that the resolution imposing a blockade on Iraq, considering all its consequences on the Iraqi people, is a stigma for the imperialist world. It is a greater disgrace for the Arabs who take part in it.

The paper discusses some Arab governments' insistence on keeping Iraqi assets frozen in their banks under the pretext of implementing international legitimacy, saying that such a conduct represents an attitude that might not be flagrantly hostile toward our people. This attitude, however, serves the enemies of our people and promotes their schemes and actions.

The paper recalls the stands of some brothers who opposed the aggression against Iraq and the blockading of its people, saying: We do not think that those brothers accept taking stands on the question of Iraqi assets that serve our enemies, after having suffered a great deal because of their sympathy with Iraq.

The paper compares the courteous stands that have no effect and genuine conduct that stems from belief in pan-Arab responsibility, saying that demonstrating stands means taking steps. The step that is required now is releasing Iraqi assets, not keeping them frozen in line with the will of Washington and its allies.

The paper throws light on the undeclared objectives behind Washington's decision to freeze Iraqi assets abroad and force Arab leaders to abide by this decision in their states. It says that keeping Iraqi assets frozen aims to make the Iraqi people lose faith in their brothers, as well as in all Arabs.

The paper concludes: Arabism is not a robe that we put on or take off whenever we feel like it. Arabism has to do with existence, destiny, and stands, not simply talk. This is credibility and a real test.

Al-Sahhaf Arrives in New York for UNGA Session

JN2409100092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0625 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] New York, the United Nations, 24 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived here last night leading an official delegation to the proceedings of 47th session of the UN General Assembly. The foreign minister will address the General Assembly on Wednesday. [passage omitted]

Rabin Believes Agreements With Arabs Possible

TA2309203492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The next round of peace talks will take place in Washington on 21 October. This was stated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz. It is the Arab delegations which pressured the Americans to hold the talks at this place and on this date. Another round of talks, in Washington too, will take place immediately after the U.S. presidential elections in November.

Prime Minister Rabin spoke at a party meeting in Nesher today. He said he believes that we will reach agreements with the Palestinians and the Arab countries, and that in order to exhaust negotiations, it is desirable not to listen to terror-spreading radicals in any camp. According to Rabin's assessment, if agreements are achieved with the Palestinians and Syrians, Jordan and Lebanon will follow suit. [passage omitted]

Discusses al-Asad's Role

TA2409055492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he thinks agreements will be signed in the Middle East peace talks, first with the Syrians and Palestinians, and then later with the Lebanese and Jordanians. Rabin said he would like to hear Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad state to his own people that he intends to achieve full peace and normalization with Israel. The prime minister was speaking to reporter Le'a Zinder at the home of the German ambassador to Israel last night on the anniversary of Germany's unification.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I believe that today, especially on the Syrian-Israeli and the Palestinians from the territories delegations negotiations, we go to the real business, to the issues that have to be solved to bring about peace with Syria, the interim agreement for transition period with the Palestinians. [sentence as heard]

[Zinder] We are told that the Syrian representative told Lawrence Eagleburger that the Syrians are now ready for full peace with Israel in return for all of the territory of the Golan. Did this mark a new departure in the peace negotiations?

[Rabin] Well, I would like to hear in specific terms from the Syrian highest authority that they are ready for peace, that the meaning of it is open boundaries, diplomatic relations, embassies, normalization of relations.

[Zinder] You want to hear this from Hafiz al-Asad himself.

[Rabin] Not only from Hafiz al-Asad, the president of Syria, but even more so that the president will say [that] to his own people, and that the peace treaty stand on its own two feet.

[Zinder] Mr. Rabin, I would like your reaction to the terrorist attacks, which seem to be on the increase. There are some voices in the opposition who say that because Israel is making concessions in Washington, this looks to some of the Arabs like a government that can be pushed around.

[Rabin] When it comes to the opposition, the accusation is total nonsense. The terror always, even during the negotiations in Washington under the former government....[changes thought] If you remember, whenever there was a beginning of negotiations, there was an increase of terror activities. [end recording]

Comments on Ron Arad's Fate

TA2309210492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this evening that he hopes that recent reports about Israeli navigator Ron Arad are not part of unreliable Lebanese information.

[Begin Rabin recording] I do not have reports yet. I hope this is not, again, Lebanese information which is not known for its reliability, but it is our duty to do everything and to follow every report which may lead to clarifying his condition and whereabouts and result in his return home. [end recording]

The meeting between the Israeli and Lebanese delegations ended in Washington this evening. At the end of the meeting Uri Lubrani said there is no news about Ron Arad.

In a talk with our correspondent Yaron Ben-'Ami, Yitzhaq Rabin addressed himself to the last two terrorist acts in Jerusalem and in Moshav Gadish. We will continue to fight terror with every means at our disposal in the framework of the law, the prime minister said, emphasizing that Palestinian radicals will not remove Israel from the circle of the peace talks.

Peres Rejects al-Shar' Peace for Withdrawal Plan

TA2409080092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Report by Aharon Lapidot from New York]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday rejected Faruq al-Shar's concept of a comprehensive peace in return for a comprehensive withdrawal. It is high time the Syrians talked directly to us instead of issuing vague statements to the media, Foreign Minister Peres told IDF Radio in reaction to al-Shar's remarks yesterday. Peres was very skeptical about the Syrian foreign minister's observations, which were made in a meeting with Lawrence Eagleburger, acting U.S. secretary of state. Peres noted that the Syrians are very precise when referring to territorial matters and very vague when speaking of peace:

[Begin Peres recording] I think we should start discussing peace in detail, and I am referring not just to a comprehensive withdrawal, but first and foremost to recognized and secure borders. I do not know what the term comprehensive includes in this context. Anyway, it is high time Syria's upper echelons started talking directly to us, instead of tossing out incomprehensible phrases via the media. [end recording]

The foreign minister disclosed that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had promised that he would take personal action toward securing the release of Israeli navigator Ron Arad. Appearing before a cheering crowd of students at Columbia University, Peres said that despite the recent reports, we are not certain which organization is holding Ron Arad.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, with whom Peres met earlier, said that basically the Syrians would like the negotiations to follow the pattern established during Israel's talks with Egypt. They mean business [preceding three words in English], said Musa, referring to the Syrians.

Minister Says Golan Legally Belongs to Syria

TA2309124392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Education Minister Shulamit Aloni believes that according to international law, the Golan Heights belong to Syria. Our correspondent Nava Kohen reports that speaking before a forum of spokesmen in Jerusalem, Mrs. Aloni said: Our pain notwithstanding, and although people were told to settle there— which I consider a mistake—it should be remembered that in the absence of peace, the threat of a dreadful war will become imminent. In her opinion, the settlers may not be lawbreakers, but they certainly are not pioneers.

Aloni added that she would lobby for the abolition of the law banning meetings with the PLO, if the amendment to the law is not passed within six months of the government's establishment. In her opinion, the United States was also wrong to terminate its direct dialogue with the PLO, which could have helped them influence decisionmakers. [passage omitted]

No Reason Given as Jordan Postpones Group's Visit

TA2409070992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The departure for Amman of a delegation of Israeli Arab notables for a meeting with King Husayn has been postponed by Jordan. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that no explanation was given for the delay. As much as a week ago the delegation was notified that their visit had the approval of both the Jordanian Government and the Israeli Interior Ministry.

Chemical Arms Charter To Be Signed 'End of 1992'

TA2309205492 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1520 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Communicated by the Cabinet Secretariat]

The ministerial committee for national security convened this morning, (Wednesday), 23.9.92, in Jerusalem, to discuss Israeli participation in the Chemical Weapons Charter. It was decided to accept the recommendation to sign the charter. The signing is to take place at the end of 1992. Joining the group of the first countries to sign marks the continuation of government policy to advance the peace process.

Test of Arrow Antimissile Missile 'Successful'

TA2309154792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] A successful flight test of the Arrow antimissile missile was conducted this afternoon at a test field in Israel. Military sources had expressed the belief that the continuation of the joint U.S.-Israeli project would depend on the success of this experiment, following the previous three failures. Here is 'Ido Baum with the details:

[Baum] The Arrow missile, the Israeli missile against ballistic missiles, was launched this afternoon within the framework of the fourth trial in a series of four planned tests. Initial data indicates that the missile performed as planned and attained the goals of the trial which were: verification of the functioning of the control systems and the operability of the sensor device the missile is carrying which guides it to its target. No attempt was made to intercept a target in this test.

The three previous tests—in August 1990, and in March and October 1991—did not attain their goals, but provided information for further research. Security sources have said that this information will allow the Israeli Government to make a decision regarding the stationing of antiballistic missile defense systems in Israel. The Arrow missile was developed by the Israel Aircraft Industry, based on a contract with the U.S. SDI Administration, and financed jointly by Israel and the United States.

Military sources recently said that the continuation of the project depends, to a large extent, on the success of this latest test. The defense establishment reported today that work for the development of the missile will continue within a framework that will be called the project for the continuation of the Arrow missile development—ACES [acronym given in English]. The plan will continue with the same financing and team.

Details Reported

TA2309203792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Excerpt] The Arrow missile was launched from a test field in Israel at 1421 [1221 GMT]; the flight lasted some 42 seconds. Initial data indicates that the missile behaved as planned and attained its goals. During the flight, it entered its trajectory and conducted maneuvers as planned. All of the missile's systems including the sensory device which guides the Arrow to its target, the control systems, the computer, and the engine operated perfectly. At the end of the flight, the missile destroyed itself as planned. No attempt was made to intercept a target in this test. [passage omitted]

Group Charged With Trying To Form Islamic State

NC2309132492 Paris AFP in English 1244 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Amman, Sept 23 (AFP)—A Muslim extremist ring dismantled last month and allegedly founded by two MPs has been accused of working to set up an Islamic state in Jordan with the backing of Iran.

According to the charges to be raised in court next Tuesday, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, the group was formed by Ya'qub Qirrish and Layth Shubaylat after a meeting in Tehran two years ago.

Shubaylat is alleged to have met Iranian leaders, Ahmad Jibril, head of the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), and other Muslim fundamentalist groups.

"The aim of this group is to spread the principles and objectives of the Iranian revolution with the overthrow of Jordan's regime and the creation of an Islamic caliphate state."

Iran, according to the charges, financed the network—called the Youths for Islamic Mobilization—through the PFLP-GC. The group is also charged with possession of arms and explosives.

Both deputies are accused of passing on information to the Iraqi opposition with the aim of disrupting relations between Jordan and its neighbour Iraq.

Qirrish has allegedly been linked to another Muslim extremist group, the Army of Muhammad, which was dismantled in July 1991 and he helped a suspected member flee the country after hiding him in his home.

Six leaders of the Army of Muhammad were condemned to death but their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.

Ibrahim Bakr, the lawyer for Shubaylat—who will stand trial along with Qirrish and two other suspects—confirmed to AFP he had received a copy of the charges but declined to comment.

Prime Minister Comments

JN2309140592 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Sep 92 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has said that the case of Deputies Ya'qub Qirrish and Layth Shubaylat is being handled by the judiciary and the government has nothing to do with it.

In a press statement following his meeting with Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, at the parliament building yesterday morning, the prime minister added that the case was not discussed at the meeting and it is left for justice to have its word.

He stressed that his visit to parliament falls within the framework of the government's policy of coordination with the House of Representatives, through its speaker, in the service of public welfare.

His excellency said no date has yet been fixed for the inauguration of the fourth ordinary session of parliament, pending the safe return of his majesty the king. [passage omitted]

'Tumultuous' Welcome Prepared for King 24 Sep

JN2409054992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn today returns home to a tumultuous welcome accorded by nearly 1 million of his people, who are expected to gather in the capital from all governorates. Hundreds of people have gathered in public parks and tribesmen from throughout the nation swarmed to the capital to greet the king, dance, and sing national songs. The streets of the capital are bedecked with the king's portraits, Jordanian flags, and other decorative signs, along with posters voicing the various organizations' warm welcome for his majesty the king.

Unprecedented rejoicings at the official and popular levels are also manifest in all districts, public squares, and streets of the capital and other towns and villages of the Kingdom. Office buildings are festooned with colored lights and life-size portraits of his majesty. Bedouin leaders have pitched tents in Amman's districts and brought in camels and sheep to slaughter in thanksgiving sacrifice when the king flies in after an absence of more than 35 days in the United States, where he underwent a surgery, and in London, where he was recuperating.

Also reports from various governorates said that festivities are planned or under way in various towns to mark the happy occasion. As soon as the king's plane touches down at the airport, all the Kingdom's churches will toll their bells in a show of rejoicing, while all mosques' minarets will be lit for four consecutive days on this happy occasion. Special arrangements are being made to organize the transportation of people from the various governorates to the capital and back. The local authorities have arranged for 53,000 students from government schools to line the streets of Amman, where the royal motorcade will pass, and some 2,500 scouts have been enlisted to help keep order. Notables from various governorates have been assigned areas in the capital's various districts where the royal motorcade will pass to welcome his majesty the king.

The government declared today a national holiday, and said that after the official welcoming ceremony at the Marka Airport, east of Amman, the royal motorcade will pass through the streets, first to downtown and then to Jabal Amman, to Zahran Palace, and later to the fifth circle, to the Sports City, Jabal al-Husayn, and then to the Basman Palace.

Radio Jordan and Television will broadcast live all the celebrations, including the welcome ceremony at Marka Airport, and the procession in the streets. They are also broadcasting special programs on the occasion.

Foreign Minister Confers With Counterparts

JN2409124292 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] In New York, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met today with a number of his counterparts taking part in the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. He held talks with Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek on bilateral relations between Jordan and the Netherlands, as well as the Middle East peace process, especially that the Netherlands has an important role to play, through the European Community, in the ongoing negotiations. Dr. Abu-Jabir also met with the foreign ministers of Spain, the Ukraine, Norway, and Belgium, and discussed bilateral relations between Jordan and their countries.

Comments on 'Palestine Question'

JN2409132892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that the Palestine question will remain the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict, despite the ramifications represented by Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and even though these ramifications are no less important than the conflict itself.

In an exclusive interview with the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR published today, the foreign minister said that Syria and Jordan insist on a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution within the framework of the current Arab-Israeli peace talks.

He said that progress has been very slow in all tracks of the bilateral talks because the conflict is long-standing and very complicated, and the results need time since these negotiations deal with sacred land and inalienable basic rights for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians, as stipulated by relevant UN resolutions.

Merchants Not Keen To Resume Business With Iraq

NC2209120192 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 22 Sep 92

[By Nabil Rached]

[Text] Amman, Sept 22 (AFP)—Jordan's traders are balking at resuming business with neighbouring Iraq, formerly their top commercial partner, despite appeals from sanctions-hit Baghdad.

Merchants said the volume of trade with Baghdad had plummeted 90 percent since mid-July, when 42 traders were executed in Iraq on charges of profiteering and hoarding.

At around the same time, Iraq issued a list of banned import items, notably luxury goods, and announced a shift toward self-sufficiency to combat the U.N. trade embargo imposed after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Baghdad has however been contacting Jordanian merchants through its embassy in Amman in a bid to encourage a pick-up in trade, merchants told AFP.

But as Nasri Kassab, a food-to-plastics manufacturer, explained: "The climate of terror caused by the executions has forced us to reduce sharply our trade with Iraq."

He said his exports to Iraq had plunged 90 percent from a high of two million dollars a month.

Another trader, who requested anonymity added that traders were also aware Iraqi merchants "can no longer easily pay for their orders because of the recent ban on taking money out of the country."

"From now on they will have to pay for our goods cash down," Marwan Khirfan said. He had been taking one million dollars a month, mostly from food and cigarettes exports to Iraq.

"The steep fall in the Iraqi dinar against the dollar, from 35 dinars two weeks ago to 45 dinars now, has sharpened the crisis in business confidence," he said.

Both traders also said the Iraqi embassy had not provided any guarantee they would be paid.

Kassab said they had only been offered "verbal assurances," while Khirfan said: "It's not enough to guarantee our freedom to work, they must also guarantee our money."

Another cigarette exporter, who has seen his sales of 1.5 million packets a month slashed to 150,000, agreed. "There's a lack of confidence in relations with Iraq, and our rights are not being underwritten."

Cross-border trade has also been reduced to a trickle by Jordan's imposition of tighter controls, under pressure from Washington, to implement the embargo, which excludes food and medicine.

Evidence of the trade squeeze is clearly visible in Jordan's once-humming duty-free zones.

Twenty to 30 truckloads of goods used to move out over the border to Iraq each day. Now it's only five on a good day, and on a bad day none at all, according to Jordanian officials.

Goods worth millions of dollars are piling up in the free zones because of the brake on Iraqi import orders, they said.

Economists in Jordan warn the freeze in trade may cause a liquidity crisis on the Jordanian market. But some traders said they planned to turn to new markets such as Russia, Romania and Bulgaria.

Al-Ma'luf Meets With U.S. Ambassador Crocker

NC2309123592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Excerpt] In his first official meeting with Foreign Minister Nasri al-Ma'luf today, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker raised the two principal issues of the economic boycott of Israel and the resettlement of Palestinians. Afterward, al-Ma'luf said:

[Begin recording] [al-Ma'luf] We know the Palestinians do not want resettlement. They want to maintain their Palestinian identity. God willing, the solution will not be....

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] What was his answer to that?
[Al-Ma'luf] He wanted to obtain views and to write to the official departments. The Americans, as they repeatedly do, asked if the economic boycott of Israel could be reviewed. We told him that this Israeli boycott is not a Lebanese decision but one made by the Arab League. If the circumstances and conditions are right to review the decision, the Arab League Council will discuss it. The states will then abide by whatever the Council decides. [end recording]

Al-Ma'luf added that he asked Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, to deliver Lebanon's speech to the UN General Assembly. [passage omitted]

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 23 September carries a brief, but poor recording of al-Ma'luf's statement and his answers to questions by unidentified correspondents following the meeting with Ambassador Crocker. The following exchanges, which add to the Voice of Lebanon report, were audible:

"[Correspondent] Did you discuss the deployment of Syrian forces in Lebanon?
[Al-Ma'luf] No. We did not not.

[Correspondent] Were other bilateral issues raised?
[Al-Ma'luf] Routine issues.

[Correspondent] Did he tell you anything specific about the peace talks in Washington?
[Al-Ma'luf] No. No."]

Al-Sulh on Ties With Egypt, Israel, Elections

NC2209190292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Beirut, 22 Sep (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh stressed Egypt's and President Husni Mubarak's role in strengthening the framework of joint Arab action in its correct and sound form. He said Egyptian-Lebanese relations have strengthened and become unique by virtue of President Mubarak's conscious pan-Arab policy in the cause of Egypt and the whole Arab world. He added that these good ties between Cairo and Beirut date back to the historical experiences that have been crowded with accomplishments since the days of late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir of Egypt.

In an interview with the MENA Beirut correspondent Fathi Sharif, the Lebanese prime minister expressed his hope that these ties will be promoted in the upcoming stage for the good of the Egyptian and Lebanese peoples and the major Arab cause.

He said that the liberation of southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation represents the Lebanese Government and people's first priority at this stage. He affirmed that Lebanon insists, through the current peace talks in Washington, on implementing Security Council Resolution 425 mandating Israel to withdraw from the south unconditionally.

He praised the cooperation and coordination among the fraternal Arab delegation, particularly with Syria, to achieve the higher pan-Arab goals in Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories in Golan, West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or southern Lebanon.

He said that the current Lebanese Government regards the strategic cooperation between Lebanon and Syria as fundamental and fateful in every political and pan-Arab action. It also regards the coordination between the two countries in the peace negotiations an inevitable necessity dictated by the requirements of the current stage, not only for Lebanon but also for the entire Arab cause.

The Lebanese prime minister warned of the presence of major foreign forces conspiring against Lebanon's security and stability and against Lebanon regaining its health to play its Arab and international role. He added that these attempts are the most dangerous challenges facing Lebanon at present. He added that Israel is in the lead of these forces, which want no good for Lebanon, neither now nor in the future.

He said that these attempts to foment division and create doubts and instability target not only Lebanon but the entire Arab world. He urged the region's countries to be wary of the danger and dimensions of this conspiracy.

He did not rule out the possibility that pawns may be working both inside and abroad for Israel, saying: We must not ignore this fact and must be frank with each other and speak the truth, no matter how serious it is.

Al-Sulh was asked about the ongoing suspicions that cast doubt on the Lebanese Government's ability to restore security and stability despite the end of the war and the hostage crisis. He replied: These suspicions are absolutely out of place. I can assure you Lebanon is now in a stable situation and is free of any flaw.

He said that the campaign launched against Lebanon during the parliamentary elections was artificial and baseless, that the situation has begun to relax, and the majority of the Lebanese people now acknowledge the need for an agreement within the new Chamber of

Deputies and other constitutional institutions. Thus, there is no disorder in the political situation in Lebanon.

He dismissed the criticism and accusations on rigging the elections, which claim that the new Chamber of Deputies does not achieve a sectarian balance. He said that the new Chamber of Deputies represents all trends, sects, and faiths of all the Lebanese people.

He said that this chamber must not be encroached upon in any respect. He expressed his hope that all the Lebanese will transcend their reservations and move their differences to the Chamber of Deputies so that the democratic parliamentary life will be enhanced in Lebanon and this country will remain a beacon for democracy and freedom in the Arab world.

Al-Sulh was asked about the task of the new Lebanese Government expected to be formed in late October and whether it will be a reconciliation government embracing all political forces including the opposition or a technocrat government. He replied that he cannot predict its formation or who the new prime minister will be. But he expressed his belief that the next government's mission will be to concentrate its efforts on three basic priorities: first, to work for liberating southern Lebanon by pursuing the ongoing peace negotiations in Washington with the United States participation to implement Resolution 425 and recover a cherished part of our land; second, to tackle the economic situation and living conditions in Lebanon, whether by procuring Arab and international aid or by continuing the internal financial economic reform measures that the current government has begun; third, enhance and strengthen national accord so that this accord will be an established and permanent feature of the Lebanese political life.

He stressed that his government, which took office on 15 May, honored the promises it made in its policy statement, especially concerning the elections, which were held in a correct and sound manner and in a free atmosphere, though some of the Lebanese objected to holding them.

He denied that his government's current task is transitional to pave the way for a national accord government and completing the implementation of al-Ta'if Accord. He said his government came into office amid difficult circumstances resulting from a declining economic situation and rising inflation rate, difficulties that he inherited from preceding governments.

Al-Sulh said that among the primary goals of his government are to seek to ease the acute economic and financial crisis and thus remedy the abnormal disorder in Lebanese life, in addition to the government's commitment to ratifying a new election law to pave the way for holding elections for the first time in 20 years. He added that his government's first goal during his brief stay in office has been the work with full determination to liberate the south from Israeli occupation by implementing Security Council Resolution 425.

He expressed satisfaction with the accomplishments he made in tackling the economic crisis. He said that the efforts over the last months have resulted to a great extent in huge reforms in the Lebanese general budget. He added that the budget has been increased and deficit and inflation rates have fallen. The budget is going to be balanced and is moving away from the huge disorder which the state is suffering.

Al-Sulh commented about the fluctuating exchange rate of the dollar on local markets and its link with political effects, especially during the election phase. He said that the dollar's exchange rate was falling before the elections, but the political battle that raged between supporters and opponents of the elections helped the dollar to be a pressure and blackmail instrument in the hands of the opposition members who used it as a speculation tool. This, he added, caused a rise in the dollar exchange rate and, in turn, created disorder in the financial situation and local money markets.

He noted that the Lebanese Government intervened strongly to confront this political plot carried out by some of the election opponents through their large financial capabilities. The government is now working to curb the rising exchange rate of the dollar in markets, he said.

The Lebanese prime minister said that the dollar war on local markets represents one of the challenges faced by the government in various spheres from its political rivals, who sought to stall the elections, paralyze the political situation, and place the government in a difficult deadlock. He pointed out that he can still express his relative satisfaction with the accomplishments his government has made thus far.

Al-Shar': No Date Set for Withdrawal From Lebanon

JN2309192992 Paris Radio Monte Carl in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: There is no specific date for Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. He noted that the al-Ta'if Accords do not set a date for this withdrawal. In a statement prior to his meeting with Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, al-Shar' said: Syria agrees to withdraw its forces from Lebanon when Damascus and Beirut see that stability has returned to that country.

Al-Shar' Makes Contacts at UN General Assembly

Meets With Eagleburger

JN2409090092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings yesterday .

Conversation centered on the current peace talks in Washington. In this regard, Mr. Eagleburger voiced his country's appreciation of the serious Syrian Arab position to boost the peace process and achieve a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Conversation also touched on the latest developments in Lebanon. Viewpoints were in agreement on the need to follow up the implementation of the al-Ta'if Accord, including the abolishment of the political sectarianism within the context of preserving the national reconciliation in Lebanon.

They also discussed bilateral ties and means to improve them.

The foreign minister also met yesterday with Abdellatif Filali, Morocco's minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation. They discussed Arab conditions and ties between the two fraternal countries.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that if it seeks to obtain a full peace with the Arabs, Israel must withdraw from all occupied Arab territories and acknowledge the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights.

The news agency AP cites the foreign minister as telling the journalists before meeting yesterday with Eagleburger that Syria seeks a full peace that will lead to Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

Responding to a question, al-Shar' said: The Syrian delegation has given the Israeli side a very balanced document, which was praised by many politicians in the United States and the world and which is considered a basis for achieving peace in the Middle East.

Meets French, Luxembourg, UAE Ministers

JN2409093992 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] New York, 24 Sep (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meetings this morning. Both ministers reviewed the current peace talks in Washington, the situation in Lebanon, and bilateral relations and ways of developing them.

The foreign minister also met with Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos this morning. Talks dealt with the current peace talks in Washington and the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, in addition to bilateral relations.

Al-Shar' also met with Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], this morning. They reviewed the situation in the Gulf region and the dispute between the UAE and Iran over Abu Musa Island.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar To Lift Kabul Siege Under Conditions

LD2309105692 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] A responsible source of the Hezb-e Eslami reported to a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent that Rabbani, head of the interim coalition administration in Kabul, has asked Brother Hekmatyar, head of the Hezb-e Eslami, to end the siege of Kabul.

Brother Hekmatyar consented to end the siege of Kabul on the condition that the coalition regime act in accordance with the commitments undertaken and agreements signed with Hezb-e Eslami, under which the savage militias are to be evicted from Kabul and all communists removed from government posts, and the Afghan nation is given the opportunity to form its own Islamic government in accordance with its wishes.

Hezb-e Wahdat Leader Notes Settlement With Regime

BK2309110792 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 23 Sep 92

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, 23 Sept (AFP)—The eight-party coalition representing Afghanistan's largest religious minority has officially renounced its opposition to the Kabul Government, its leader told AFP in an exclusive interview Wednesday.

Ayatollah Fazel, who heads the High Controlling Council of the Shiite Hazara community, the Hezb-e Wahdat, said that all past differences had now been settled with the government.

The minority community had previously been excluded from all decision making in the country.

"An agreement was signed on Sunday," said Fel. "We are now officially part of the Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan."

Fazel, a soft-spoken and dignified figure with the sombre dress of his Iranian mentors, has just now emerged from obscurity as the party boss.

Previously it was widely but incorrectly believed that 'Abdol Ali Mazari was the leader of Hezb-e Wahdat, but party officials, who spared no effort to accurately describe their party hierarchy, explained that Mazari was only the number two man.

Mazari heads the 15-man decision making council of the Wahdat, which advises the seven-man controlling council headed by Fazel.

Fazel has been a nominal member of the eight-man ruling Leadership Council of Afghanistan since 20 days after Burhanoddin Rabbani became interim president at the end of June, but his role in this cabinet had been limited, he said.

He would not divulge the terms of agreement "that step by step" had brought the Wahdat party fully into the Afghan Government, but said that an official announcement in a few days would clarify the matter.

Neither would Fazel say how many government ministries and departments would be allocated to the Wahdat.

"I can confirm that we have been given the Ministry of Commerce. The others are to be announced soon," he said.

Fazel also said the Wahdat had moderated its demand for the three ministries—reconstruction, mines and coal, and state security—promised to it by the previous interim Afghan president, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi.

He pointed out that state security was now only a department, but would not be drawn on whether Wahdat was still pressing its claim for this powerful organisation.

The Wahdat leader said that since the April collapse of the Moscow-backed Najibollah regime, the Hezb-e Wahdat had opposed the mojahedin government in Kabul because the seven Sunni mojahedin parties previously based in Peshawar had not invited the Shiite coalition to join them.

Fazel said he had erroneously credited the Peshawar seven with more power than they really had. He said that due to the weaknesses of the current mojahedin government they had not been able to deal with the demands of the Wahdat.

He said that in respect of these weaknesses and to promote the best interests of the country as a whole, the Wahdat had decided to cooperate with the Kabul government.

This included a change in the Wahdat's position on general elections. It prefers popular elections, with equal voting rights for men and women, but has conceded in favour of an upcoming assembly, "as a preliminary to elections," in which a new interim leadership will be chosen by consensus of selected provincial representatives.

Fazel said he was satisfied with the current ceasefire in western Kabul and the placement of a garrison buffer force between the Iranian-backed Wahdat and its Saudi-backed Sunni rivals, the Etehad-e Eslami, with whom it had been fighting in Kabul's western suburbs until a ceasefire was agreed Sunday.

Questioned about Arab involvement in the fighting, Fazel said: "We cannot say that the governments of Arab countries are interfering in our matters, rather that some Arab youths are coming here to fight against us."

Fazel denied that Iran was officially supporting the Hezb-e Wahdat.

Islamic Unity Party Joins Rabbani Coalition

LD2309161192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami] and the Islamic government of Afghanistan have merged. According to our correspondent's report from Kabul, announcing the news this morning, Ayatollah Fazel said: The decision followed three meetings between representatives of the Islamic Unity Party and Mr. Rabbani, the head of the interim government, this week. The ministries of commerce, mines and metals, and development; two deputy ministers' posts; and the chancellorship of Kabul University are to be given to the Islamic Unity Party.

He added: The decision will still stand after the formation of the Reconciliation and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hall wa 'Aqd) in mid Aban [around 6 November].

According to this report, the Islamic Movement Party [Hezb-e Harakat-e Eslami] of Afghanistan, led by Ayatollah Mohseni, is at present in charge of the two ministries of planning and budget and agriculture.

According to reports from Kabul, with the stationing of the peacekeeping forces between the two fronts, the Islamic Unity Party and the Islamic Union [Ettehad-e Eslami] of Sayyaf, the situation in western Kabul is calm at present, and the warring sides have so far observed the two-day-old cease-fire.

Iran

Talks With UAE on Islands Scheduled for 27 Sep

LD2309171992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry announced today: In line with Iran's fundamental policies to expand and to strengthen ties and good-neighborly relations with Persian Gulf littoral states and her belief in the need to peacefully resolve issues with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] through discussion—as repeatedly declared by our country's authorities—Iran and the UAE have agreed to hold talks in the near future to resolve their dispute over the three Gulf islands.

Mr. Fumani, the Foreign Ministry Persian Gulf director general, will take part in the talks, which will be held in the UAE next Sunday [27 Sep].

Talks Held With Kuwait on Improving Trade

LD2409101192 Tehran IRNA in English 0701 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Sept. 24, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait on Wednesday issued a joint business communique in the wake of a two-day visit to Kuwait by Iran's Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji and talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jarallah.

The communique said the talks between the two sides had been held in a healthy atmosphere and that both countries had emphasized on their determination to further solidify their traditional ties as background for improving upon their economic relations.

It said the two countries would exploit all their means for upgrading their economic and trade relations with a view to arriving at a better balanced exchange of economic exchanges.

Iran and Kuwait also agreed to participate in the regional and internatonal exhibitions that are held in the two countries from time to time. Kuwait voiced its pleasure with the setting up of an exhbition in that country of Iran-made products.

The two sides also agreed on a continual exchange of scientific and technological know-how between Iran and Kuwait and an interface between the chambers of commerce in the two countries.

Kuwait also agreed to offer a proper area at which to display the products of Iranian retailers who ferry between the two countries with their own launches.

The communique said that a group of Iranian entrepreneurs who comprised the Iranian side to the talks had also conferred with their Kuwaiti counterparts and reached agreement for selling certain construction materials, ornamental stones, food items, chemicals, hygienic products, factory-made carpets to Kuwait and buy fertilizers from that country.

Velayati Participates in UN General Assembly

Holds Talks With Counterparts

LD2309134792 Tehran IRNA in English 0720 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 22, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently attending the 47th annual session of the UN General Assembly, held separate talks with the General Assembly chairman and his counterparts from Bahrain, Russia, Italy, Greece, Luxembourg, Turkey and Turkmenistan's first deputy foreign minister, Monday.

The General Assembly chairman, Bulgaria's foreign minister, anticipated a better prospect for the future of Tehran-Sofia relations, in economic fields in particular.

In the meeting with Russian foreign minister, the two sides welcomed expansion of bilateral relations. Velayati said holding of the conference of the Caspian Sea littoral states next month is a positive step towards promotion of regional cooperation.

The two sides also discussed issues of Afghanistan and Bosnia- Hercegovina (B-H). The Russian minister said that Moscow attaches importance to its relations with Tehran adding that his country is ready to further consolidate ties with Iran.

Velayati expressed pleasure with the upward trend in Tehran-Rome relations and indicated that Italy has won the third place among Iran's trade partners. The Italian side said he will not spare any effort towards consolidation and expansion of Tehran-Rome ties.

Turkmenistan's head of the delegation expressed pleasure with Iran's participation in the conference on the Caspian Sea and told Velayati that examination of the Caspian Sea environmental issues is impossible without Iran's presence.

The two sides also discussed Turkmenistan's membership in the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) grouping Iran, Pakistan, Turkey and several newly-independent states of the former Soviet Union plus Afghanistan.

In the meeting with his counterpart from Luxembourg, Velayati touched on the situation in Iraq and the issues in Europe. The Luxembourgian minister underlined the need for full implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions by the Iraqi Government and called for cessation of the masssacre of the Iraqi people in southern Iraq.

Velayati said that both the Iranian Government and nation are seriously concerned over the situation of the Iraqi people.

In talks with his Greek counterpart, Velayati was informed of the latest developments in Cyprus-Greece talks. They also touched on the Iranian peace efforts aimed at settlement of the Karabakh issue.

Velayati underlined Iran's conviction that the issue must be solved through peaceful negotiations. He also invited the Greek minister to visit Iran, which was accepted. The Irano-Greece joint economic commission is to be held in Tehran in a near future.

Velayati and his Turkish counterpart discussed Tehran-Ankara relations and issues related to Afghanistan and massacre of Muslims in B-H. They agreed to promote their cooperation in sending humanitarian aids to B-H.

Meets Butrus-Ghali, Other Leaders

LD2309140192 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 23, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati discussed the latest international developments with ranking personalities on the fringe of the 47th annual session of the UN General Assembly Wednesday and Tuesday.

During a meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali Wednesday morning (Tehran time), Velayati pledged Iran's all-out efforts to settle the Afghan problem and stressed that Iran is ready to help establish tranquility in Afghanistan without interferring in domestic affairs of the country as before.

Butrus-Ghali praised Iran's efforts to solve the Afghan crisis and informed Velayati of UN measures for returning Afghan refugees and dispatch of humanitarian aid to that country.

He also considered Iran's support for UN measures as very positive.

Butrus-Ghali also promised to open the information office of the United Nations in Tehran which the UN General Assembly ratified last year.

In another meeting with president of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, on Tuesday Velayati reiterated Iran's support for Bosnia's territorial integrity and condemned Serbs' atrocities and massacre of Bosnian people.

Izetbegovic lauded Iran's political support and humanitarian assistance to the Bosnian people.

He added that they needed the help of all countries with regards to the cold season and shortage of facilities.

In a meeting with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Velayati reiterated Iran's readiness to resume her mediatory bids to establish peace and tranquility in the Karabakh region.

Iran believes that the continuation of the fighting would not lead to the victory of any side and that both nations have the right to reconstruct their country in peace, he stressed.

Ter-Petrosyan termed Iran's efforts to settle the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Karabakh as a sign of Tehran's good intentions for establishment of peace in the region.

In another development, Velayati and the Cypriot President Yeoryios Vasiliou discussed the latest world developments and explored avenues to consolidate Tehran-Nicosia ties.

Velayati invited the Cypriot president to visit Iran, which was welcomed.

Vasiliou informed Velayati of the trend of the talks over the Cypriot crisis.

In a meeting with his Malaysian counterpart, the two foreign ministers called for further attention by world countries, especially Islamic governments, to the problems of the Bosnian Muslim people and welcomed

formation of a committee comprising member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in this connection.

The Ukrainian foreign minister discussed with Velayati the setting up of diplomatic missions in capital cities of both the countries.

The two sides also reviewed the latest developments in Karabakh and the Ukrainian official praised Iran's diplomatic efforts in this connection.

In a meeting with the Afghan foreign minister, Velayati said that Iran would not spare any efforts to help solve the Afghan problem and establish peace in that country.

The Afghan foreign minister expressed hope that Iran would continue support for the Afghan nation and that Tehran-Kabul ties would be further strengthened.

Also, the Finnish foreign minister in his meeting with Velayati stressed promotion of Tehran-Helsinki ties.

He voiced readiness to visit Tehran early next year in response to Velayati's invitation.

In a meeting with his Bahraini counterpart on Tuesday, Velayati stressed that Iran's stand vis-a-vis the Abu Musa island had not undergone any changes.

"Iran is surprised at the what is happening and considers the issue as a sign of foreign instigation," he said adding that Iran is ready to settle it through negotiation.

Expressing concern over the Abu Musa row, the Bahraini foreign minister stressed that problems among regional countries should be settled without any foreign intervention.

The two sides also discussed Tehran-Bahrain ties and cooperation.

In another development, first deputy foreign minister of Turkmenistan expressed pleasure with the participation of Iran at the conference of Caspian Sea countries to be held in Tehran next month.

He stressed that the review of ecological problems of the Caspian Sea was impossible without Iran's cooperation.

Turkmenistan will participate at the conference actively, he said.

Joins ICO Extraordinary Session

LD2409095892 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 24, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in an extraordinary session of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] here Wednesday called on Islamic states to closely cooperate in the United Nations to settle the problems of Islamic countries.

Velayati, currently here to attend the 47th annual session of the UN General Assembly, said that the Bosnian crisis "proves the fact that when the Islamic countries are united, they are capable of dealing with different issues within the United Nations system effectively."

He stressed that the Muslim world is currently facing many challenges and that many world problems continue to exist in Islamic countries. "The Zionist regime is continuing its aggression and criminal acts in the occupied territories and south Lebanon and unfortunately no just solution has yet been found for the problem of Palestine," he said.

Turning to the situation in Somalia, Velayati urged the Islamic countries to maximize "endeavors to encourage more international assistance to Somalia" adding that the Islamic countries have greater responsibility to extend helping hands to brothers and sisters in Somalia.

As for Afghansitan, he voiced the assurance that "through unity and steadfastness and without foreign intervention, the Muslim people of Afghanistan can overcome the difficulties and start the process of reconstruction of their devastated country."

Velayati indicated the need for "the international community in general and Islamic countries in particular to shoulder their responsibilities to help the legitimate government of Afghanistan to rebuild the country and absorb the refugees as soon as possible."

On the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovia (B-H), the Iranian minister said that Iran recognizes the wisdom of relevant Security Council resolutions imposing arms embargo against the territory of former Yugoslavia, but at the same time believes that "the arms embargo has even helped the predator to have more of an upper hand vis-a-vis the victim."

He urged the Security Council "to rectify the arms embargo against B-H in order to enable that country to exercise its inherent right of self-defense" and to invoke Article 42 of the UN Charter to reverse the Serbian aggression against B-H. Article 42 authorizes the U.N. to employ military force against the aggressor.

The OIC session was also addressed by foreign ministers of Turkey and Pakistan and the B-H president as well as the OIC Chairman Hamid al-Gabid who all urged the need for further cooperation and coordination among Islamic states.

Further on Reaction to Sharafkandi Assassination

Internal Kurdish Differences Cited

LD2309222692 Tehran IRNA in English 0656 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 1, IRNA—Interfaction differences between the assassinated Kurdish leader Sadeq Sharafkandi and other members of Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), who favor separation of Kurdistan from

Iran, have led to armed conflicts among them, a reliable Iraqi Kurdish source told IRNA here Sunday. After Sharafkandi clarified his stances on the autonomy of Kurdistan, the row among KDP members intensified, the source, a member of a Kurdish group in Iraq, said.

Sharafkandi, along with three other KDP leaders, were gunned down by yet unidentified assassins in Berlin last Friday. According to the source, who asked not to be identified, the latest row between Sharafkandi and the faction that believes in disintegration of Kurdistan from Iran, stemmed after his recent interview with the French radio.

In his interview, Sharfakandi had made it clear that he favored administration of major affairs of an autonomous Kurdistan, such as handling of the army and economy, with the central government in Iran and that a common language, namely Persian, should be spoken. He had also reiterated the need for territorial integrity of Iran. The source said that Sharafkandi's statements prompted strong opposition not only among KDP members but also among various Kurdish groups based in Turkey and Iraq, thus implying that the assassination might have been their work.

Tehran Ready To Help Investigate

LD2309222892 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] Bonn, Sept 22, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador here Hoseyn Musavian in a meeting with German Vice Chancellor Bernd Schmidbauer [title as received] Monday voiced Tehran's readiness to help Germany trace the assassins of four Iranian Kurdish leaders in Berlin last Friday.

Sadeq Sharafkandi and three other leaders of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) were assassinated by yet unidentified gunmen in Berlin last Friday. Since then, the German press have been making a propaganda fuss over the allegations that Iran was involved in the killing.

Musavian described the recent events and anti-Iranian propaganda as "orchestrated plots" and added that foreign hands were at work to disturb Tehran-Bonn relations.

Musavian told IRNA in an interview that the German official, who is also in charge of coordinating German intelligence and security organizations, welcomed Tehran's proposal on assisting Bonn to clarify the issue. He also stressed the importance given to bilateral relations by Germany.

Meanwhile, the German Prosecutor General's Office and criminal police declared in a statement Monday that they have managed to prepare portraits from two of the three assassins on the basis of the remarks of the eyewitnesses.

The German police has set a 50,000-German mark award for those who help arrest the assassins. A group of 70 officers from the criminal department of the police are working on the file.

German Ambassador Summoned

LD2309173792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Following the hypocrites' [monafeqin—reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq] attack on the Iranian delegation participating in the joint human rights conference in Hamburg on Islam and Christianity, the Foreign Ministry's Western Europe director general summoned the German ambassador in Tehran today and expressed Iran's regret and disgust. Stressing the need to protect the honor of Iranian guests, he called on the German Government to take serious measures against the hypocrites' minigroup due to its terroristic nature.

The German ambassador expressed profound regret about the hypocrites' attack, viewing it as an insult to Germany, and he promised that his government will carry out the necessary investigations.

Clandestine Notes Mourning, Protests

NC2409093892 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 22 Sep 92

[Text] We received reports from Kordestan saying that the people in its cities and villages are mourning the loss of their worthy leader comrade Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi and comrades Fatah 'Abdoli and Homyun Ardalan. Reports from the hero-nurturing city of Mahabad indicate that shops and the city bazaar are closed and that groups of people are going to the home of Kurdish national poet, Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi's brother Hajar, expressing their condolences.

Based on another report from Mahabad, the people's morale is very high. For some time now, the regime's forces have been on full alert. Several helicopters are patrolling the area [not further specified], while regime forces are shelling with artillery and mortars.

The mercenary forces of the Islamic Republic's reactionary regime, helpless before the people's rage and aversion, leave their bases and patrol the streets in their vehicles, apparently to intimidate the people and force them to open their shops. The mercenaries are marking the closed shops, but the zealous people of Mahabad are resisting the regime in a revolutionary way and have refused to reopen.

A report from the party committee in Baneh area also states that the city of Baneh and adjacent villages have been plunged into mourning for our dear leader. The report states that the situation in Baneh is not ordinary.

Graffiti against the Islamic Republic and commemorating the martyrs can be seen on the city's walls and doors and the regime's forces are strictly controlling the people's movements.

Reports from the cities in Iraqi Kurdistan state that on 20 September, a funeral service started at 0900 for our people's martyrs, whose memory will live on. At 1630 on the same day, a special memorial service was held in Raniyah for the Berlin martyrs, in which many people from the Haji Aqa and (Chahar Khorna) camps, (Sang-e Sard), and [name indistinct] participated. In the ceremony, each one of the political forces of Iraqi Kurdistan read a message to the participants. At 1800, those attending moved toward the headquarters of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK], chanting slogans voicing their rage and aversion for this heartrending incident.

A report from (?Qal'at Dizah) in Iraqi Kurdistan said that at 1530 on 21 September, several thousand people gathered before the Iraqi Kurdistan Front, where they demonstrated before marching toward the city's cemetery. They expressed their aversion for the horrific crime in Berlin. At the martyrs' cemetery, comrade ('Abdollah Sharifi), member of the DPK Central Committee, spoke to participants, after which representatives of all the forces and organizations of Iraqi Kurdistan read messages. The ceremony ended at 1800.

Reports indicate that similar ceremonies were also held in Rawanduz and Klar in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Sharafkandi on Autonomy

NC2009130092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 13 Sep 92

[Second of two installments of a report on an interview with Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Sharafkandi, alias Dr. Sa'id, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Kordestan, DPK, of Iran, carried on Radio France Internationale's Persian-language service on 6 through 8 September]

[Text] Radio France Internationale [RFI] interviewer Javadi asked combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id his next question: Will the incidents that will probably occur in Iraq affect Iranian Kordestan. Suppose allied forces' support to Iraqi Kurdistan gives it a semblance of autonomy, even independence; will that affect Iranian Kordestan?

Combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id answered: It will certainly have an effect. Being a Kurd does not imply that everyone should get together and forge a single country and government. In our region, we have some Arab countries, all of which have Arab residents and a single ideology and culture. France has French-speaking Swiss and Belgian residents, but this does not mean their respective countries should also become part of France.

The fundamental point is that distinctive cultural characteristics should be respected and followed, wherever they may exist. Then these people should feel that wherever they live, they are considered others' first-rate compatriots, not second or third-rate citizens. If they sense they are not being regarded as different, but as part of the local population and their real compatriots, it ceases to matter whether they are part of this country or that.

The RFI interviewer asked: Do you see, within the framework of your campaign for democracy for Iran and autonomy for Kordestan, any possibility of a system of federation for Iran? The combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id replied: The Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan has, for the past 47 years, raised the slogan of autonomy for Kordestan within the framework of democratic Iran. The fundamental reason for this slogan is that the people of Iranian Kordestan do not wish to pose as the self-styled advocates of the other nationalities in Iran, such as the Turkmens, Azeris, and Baluchis. Otherwise, the solution to the national problem, which is to ensure democratic rights in Iran, would, in our opinion, be a sort of system of federation within the framework of a united and democratic Iran, with its special distinctive rights and the general rights enjoyed by all its people.

If, in future, the national issue is to be resolved, a system of federation would certainly be more appropriate for Iran, in view of the various nationalities in it. The RFI interviewer said there are many examples, such as Germany, Switzerland, and the United States. Dr. Sa'id added: Yes, it is possible, whether a country is a monarchy or republic. There are many autonomous regions in Spain; it is proposed that the application of this principle of autonomy be spread to other regions and more rights be granted. The RFI interviewer asked combatant comrade Dr. Sa'id about the possibility of establishing a system of federation in Iran. Dr. Sa'id replied: I consider it extremely realistic for Iran, because maintaining unity and solidarity will not be possible through pressure and intimidation or repression and force. The only factor that can motivate a country to preserve its unity or to enable people to remain together is their own inclination or heart's desire. To maintain a great, united Iran, especially one that has a common history and culture, the rights of its nationalities, or should I say national minorities, such as the Kords, Azeris, Turkmens, and Baluchis, should be ensured.

One may be confident that Iran's unity—with its long historic and cultural background—is very firm and durable. Otherwise, Iran must always grapple with the lack of a center of stability or democratic government.

The interviewer asked: At the start of the Islamic revolution, the DPK was one of its supporters and opposed the monarchical system. Now, within the framework of your struggle against the ruling Iranian regime, do you still oppose a monarchical government or are you ready to cooperate with the opposition to the pro-monarchical forces and the claimant to the monarchy, the Prince Reza Pahlavi?

Combatant comrade Dr.Sa'id said: At the last DPK congress, in the month of Dey [22 December-22 January], last year, we clearly reiterated our position. The DPK, in principle, does not favor monarchy, so it can have no closeness or cooperation with pro- monarchical forces. The DPK does not, so to speak, believe that the people of Iran will vote for a monarchy in a democratic election and I think that in two instances in Iran's recent history, whether in the era of Dr. Mosaddeq or recently, they clearly indicated that they do not favor a monarchy. If we assume that again, in completely free and democratic elections, the people of Iran voted for a monarchical system of government, the DPK would still oppose it based on its principles. This would be a political opposition, so we cannot foresee any cooperation with the monarchists right now.

Javadi asked: Is it not a weakness on the part of the opposition that the forces that have various political leanings cannot cooperate in their struggle for the common objective, democracy for Iran? Dr. Sa'id stated: I do not think the monarchists' objective is the same as ours; they want a monarchy. For what reason? Their first answer is that it is to preserve the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country. Preserving territorial integrity has so far been a mere pretext for suppressing every kind of democratic demand, for example, the demands of Kords in Iranian Kordestan.

If democracy is established in Iran, why would the Iranian people need a king? This democracy that we want in Iran is the same as autonomy and the issue of federation in Iran is the same decentralization that we consider the basis of safeguarding democracy in Iran. If a monarchical government is installed in Iran, first, in view of Iran's history, traditions, and customs, it will not be similar to the monarchical systems in Europe, such as in Sweden and so on; it will naturally move toward dictatorship. When a system moves toward dictatorship, there is no semblance of democracy. If there is, it is scant. Such a democracy lacks substance.

We believe that there is no need for a centralized government, as the monarchists claim, under the aegis of a shah in Tehran or in central Iran to preserve territorial integrity and national unity. This is unnecessary. I wish to reiterate that we consider autonomy or a system of federation as a means of decentralization, which we believe will be a means and a fundamental guarantee for preserving and implementing the kind of democracy that should be established in Iran.

The RFI interviewer inquired: Do you cooperate with other forces who also campaign in the Islamic Republic of Iran and comprise the opposition today?

Combatant Comrade Dr. Sa'id replied: Absolutely. Currently, we cooperate primarily with those who favor a republic. This conforms with our thinking and concepts of Iran's future—that they should be democrats and want democracy and should be true democrats who want democratic rights for Iran's people. We have always had much common ground for talks and cooperation with such forces, to the extent and the level they would wish.

The interviewer asked: Does the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] also cooperate with you? Dr. Sa'id said no, we have no links or cooperation with the MKO; they have no links with us or with any other individual or organization and they reject one and all in a manner that is known to you. In our opinion, our cooperation with the MKO right now is impossible.

Cooperation with the MKO is impossible, because our first condition for cooperation with any organization is the presence of a democracy and belief in it. This democracy should first exist within that organization. I can safely say that we do not perceive the slightest sign of democracy in the MKO, its installations, or its operations. We cannot cooperate with this organization or have any relations with it.

The interviewer asked: Do you see your struggle being victorious?

Dr. Sa'id stated: We are not like Rajavi [head of the MKO] that we should specify dates. We do not believe in specifying dates on such issues or even venturing any conjecture on the time. I can say very definitely, without mentioning dates, that victory is certain. The current regime cannot continue in Iran with the world in the state it is in and in view of the prevailing trend. This regime is a medieval one, ignorant of the era or of contemporary culture.

Like every other country and nation, Iran must eventually become democratic and conform with prevalent and modern world conditions. It is certain that our struggle—including the struggle of all the freedom-seeking democratic combatants of Iran—will one day achieve results and a true democracy in Iran, keeping in view the interests, wishes, and opinions of the people and following them.

I cannot specify any date, but it is inevitable. How soon victory can be achieved naturally relates to our campaign and to ourselves, the Iranians, by intensifying our struggle through unity and solidarity and joining together all forces for this common objective. If we remain scattered, our dream will take longer to materialize. Our view has always been that the current Iranian regime can never be considered strong and firm in Iran, because the Iranian people do not generally welcome it. This regime is very different from that of a decade ago in the early years of the revolution. If this regime has any strength, it stems from the weakness of the opposition, not from the internal strength and influence of the regime itself.

*Leader's Judgments Supersede Those of Marja'

92AS1497B London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Aug 92, p 1

[Text] In his Friday sermons on 30 Mordad [21 Aug] Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, chief of the judiciary,

discussed an issue that has been raised among "some clergymen and theologians" since the death of Ayatollah al-'Ozma' Abol-Qasem Kho'ei. He said that those people are mistaken who believe that since the death of the great source of emulation of the Shiites, the same issue has emerged that appeared after the "passing of the Imam." He said: In the Islamic government, the final decisions are made by someone who has been designated "vice-regent of the Muslims," and his commands are "decisive," even if the sources of emulation have views on that matter which differ from those of the "leader" of the Islamic Republic, who is the "vice-regent of the Muslims."